

### **THREE ISTOOK SPENDING CUT EFFORTS SWEEP HOUSE**

Washington, D.C. - Calling it a "successful day," Rep. Ernest Istook, (R-OK), left the floor today having won three House battles to cut a total of \$8.4 million in federal spending.

Earlier in the day, the U.S. House of Representatives agreed to amendments by Istook to do away with two unnecessary federal commissions. After hard-fought debate, the House voted for his amendments to eliminate the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, (ACIR), and the Administrative Conference of the United States, (ACUS). Istook says the commissions are obsolete and duplicate work done by others.

**"The federal government gets advice from over 6,500 public and private advisory committees, panels, task forces, commissions, conferences, and all other types of groups imaginable," Istook said. "Some people in Washington think we can't do without even a couple of them, in order to cut federal spending. We can struggle along just fine with only 6,498 of them."**

Upon final congressional approval, eliminating the commissions will save \$2.8 million next year, plus each year that follows.

**"In the context of the federal budget, each million dollars is the congressional equivalent of finding a penny on the sidewalk. But I was taught to pick up those pennies, because they add up," Rep. Istook noted.**

In later action, the House passed a modified version of an amendment offered by Rep. Istook to cut construction expenses of new federal courthouses. The House finally approved a cut of \$5.6 million. Istook focused on cutting the costs following reports of extravagant spending for items such as custom spiral staircases, original art works, and marble walls.

**"Frankly, I'm convinced we could cut \$32 million or more without preventing needed courthouses from being built," Istook said after the vote. "Figures show the federal government spends**

twice as much per square foot to build a courthouse as states do.

Hopefully, this bipartisan action sends the message that our courts should NOT be monuments to government luxury."

The amended appropriations bill funds 19 courthouse construction projects. The Senate must still approve the appropriations bill for the spending cuts to occur.